

Stop Polluting Our Newport

From: Kiff, Dave <DKiff@newportbeachca.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2016 11:02 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Insider's Guide - Tuesday, February 9, 2016

A happy Super Bowl Friday to you.

Here is what may be of interest to you on the Newport Beach City Council meeting of **Tuesday, February 9th, 2016**. Meeting information and a **weblink to the full Council agenda** is at the end of this e-mail.

The **study session** starts at **5:00 p.m.**, still a little later than usual.

Breaking News: I have moved something from the **Study Session** – all my fault. The subject is the **Off-Leash Dog Beach at the Santa Ana River mouth**. In light of the extensive correspondence on this one (mostly in support of leaving it all alone), I think the better place for that discussion is at the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission (thus the term “beaches” within their title). As the Commission members read this right now, they are thinking “Dang, Dave! What are you doing to us?!!” Um, and I agree with that sentiment. But the Commission has dealt with dog and beach issues before, and done so pretty well. And **Laird Hayes** himself has a new Doodle puppy. Makes total sense, no? So for those of you following that issue, keep your thoughts and opinions coming (yes, you can send those to me or, better yet, to Assistant City Manager Carol Jacobs – cjacobs@newportbeachca.gov – you’re welcome, Carol!) and stay tuned for a meeting notification for an upcoming PB&R Commission meeting.

That means that **Tuesday’s Study Session** will cover something a little more quiet, but still important – **OCTA’s proposed changes in some of its bus routes affecting Newport Beach**. We will admit to being of two minds on this (what’s new there?). One says that it’s always important that various areas of town have good, regular transit service – not everyone has or wants a car. The other says that OCTA is completely correct in always reviewing routes for ridership and for making the bus service efficient. In fact, our staff has advocated for the latter in a general sense, noting that revenues for low-use bus lines could be used instead for more road programs, or for more targeted transit such as “local connectors” like a proposed trolley in and around the Peninsula. So, like many issues, this one isn’t black and white. Anyway, join us right after 5:00 p.m. if you feel strongly about this one.

The **regular session starts at 7:00 p.m.**, and there are some significant items on there, including:

- **Sewer rates come back for second reading.** At the last meeting, protest was measured, and it was very small. As a reminder, if this is approved, most folks’ bills will increase about \$2.14/month in 2016, then by about \$1.27/month in 2017. It’s stepped up annually with more increases at about the \$1.50/month range to 2020. The protest period has now closed. But any person can still comment on second reading at this meeting. As an additional FYI, at the last meeting, the Council approved an offset for residential customers that would, in effect, compensate them back for about three years of the rate increase if the rate increase occurs. As planned, that rebate would come back to you in a single month as a credit on your Municipal Services Statement.
- Another **labor agreement** is up for ratification that affects our field personnel – the men and women who work in our parks, the water and wastewater divisions, our beaches, on our tide-valves, and similar.
- We’re asking for City Council approval to submit an application to the Coastal Commission for a shortcoming at **Sunset Ridge Park. That’s the parking lot and its access.** Many still ask “why did you build a park without parking?” Fair question. We designed it with parking, we did our environmental review (CEQA) with parking, and parking is very much needed there. But the proposed road to the proposed parking lot goes through the Banning Ranch property. At the time of the Park’s approval, some opponents to the Banning Ranch project criticized the City’s entire plan for Sunset Ridge Park in part because of the proposed parking lot, saying that our parking lot’s road

opened the door to Banning Ranch's development. In the end, the Coastal Commission approved Sunset Ridge Park but not the parking lot or its access road. But the park still needs it. We hate asking ask moms and dads and grandparents and kids to trek all the way across busy Superior Avenue to get to soccer or baseball. The Banning Ranch development itself is up for Coastal Commission consideration in March 2016, and we'd like to be able to ask the Commission to approve our parking lot and road at the same time, assuming that they approve the scaled-down Banning Ranch proposal. If you're in **Newport Crest** or if you're a frequent visitor to Sunset Ridge, you'll want to follow this issue.

- I have something on the agenda that I wrote myself in my muddled way about **John Wayne Airport, Next Gen, and Departure profiles**. The staff report is too long and wordy (are you shocked?!) but basically the discussion is whether the City should formally advocate for a departure pattern that is more curvy than straight in the Upper Bay (there is technology out there to do this) AND whether to take a new look at departure altitudes. After reviewing departure altitudes, it might be important to see if the current noise-abatement departure procedure ("NADP") should be revised. **Fun Fact:** The current procedure is NOT required at JWA – even though every pilot seems to tell us that when we're on an outbound plane. What's required is that departing planes meet noise thresholds at 7 monitoring stations. If a plane can fly out on a straight climb without hitting the caps at the 7 stations, it doesn't have to use the roller-coaster ride takeoff called the "Close-In" NADP. The **Aviation Committee** heard and discussed this same item in December 2015, and it's coming to Council for consideration.
- There is a public hearing on the **Balboa Marina West proposed restaurant** (201 East Coast Highway, near Linda Isle and PCH). Area residents appealed the Planning Commission's approval of this new restaurant's Use Permit (and other conditions) to the City Council.
- A relatively minor item is set to continue to align the **Lido House Hotel's** entitlement with what was approved by Coastal Commission. Hey – you could see some dust flying in April on this terrific project. In March, the Fire Department may be using the about-to-be-demolished site to do some practice work. It may involve smoke and fire, if know them.
- Another item would modify **permit parking hours in Margaret Drive**, near Newport Harbor HS.
- And finally, the **OCTA item** Council will have heard in the afternoon is back for formal action (whatever that might be) regarding a City position on bus route changes.

Some notes:

- Mayor Dixon and others have developed a new forum called **Women in Newport Networking, or WiNN**. WiNN is designed to help encourage Newport Beach women to become engaged in local community and civic organizations. The WiNN committee isn't sure why Newport Beach women aren't applying for various appointed positions at the same level as the gentlemen in our community. WiNN members believe more communication and education will help to raise awareness about these and other volunteer opportunities, leading to more gender balance. About 15 community groups will participate in the **February 25 event**. Attendees will include current and former community leaders. The forum is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about how they can serve their community. For more information, the link is here: <http://newportbeachca.gov/government/open-transparent/citizen-participation/winn>
- The Mayor's next Town Hall is scheduled for **Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Civic Center (in the Community Room).

As always, thanks for reading and enjoy your weekend. Feel free to forward this e-mail to family, friends and members of your HOA if you represent one. I always like hearing from you, too, so please don't hesitate to ask a question or offer a comment.

Sincerely,

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City Council Meeting Information: The Newport Beach City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of most months (the exceptions are August and December). Typically, there is a **Study Session** that starts at 4:00 p.m. Study sessions are times for the Council to take a deeper look at a specific issue, or hear a presentation, that might eventually lead to a specific and more formal action. A **closed session** often follows the Study Session. Closed sessions are typically to address legal, personnel, and other matters where additional confidentiality is important. The **Regular (evening) Session** typically starts at 7:00 p.m., and often has a specific listing of 20-40 different items ready for formal votes. Items on the “Consent Calendar” are heard all at once, unless a Council member has removed (aka “pulled”) an item from the Consent Calendar for specific discussion and separate vote. If an item on the agenda is recommended to be “continued”, it means that the item won’t be heard nor voted on that evening, but will be pushed forward to another noticed meeting.

Public Comment is welcomed at both the Study Session and the Regular Session. The public can comment on any item on the agenda. If you want to comment on a Consent Calendar item that was not pulled from the Consent Calendar by a Council Member, you will want to do so at the time listed on the agenda – right before the Council votes on the entire Consent Calendar (it’s Roman Numeral XIII on the posted agenda). If an item is pulled, the Mayor will offer that members of the public can comment as that specific item is heard separately. Additionally, there is a specific section of Public Comment for items not on the agenda, but on a subject of some relationship to the city government.

The Council meets in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, off of Avocado between San Miguel and East Coast Highway. There is plenty of parking in the parking structure behind City Hall. You are always welcome to attend in person, but you can also watch on TV (Channels 3/31) or on your computer.

This *Insider’s Guide* is not an attempt to summarize every item on the Agenda – just the ones that seem of specific interest to Dave. You are encouraged to read the full agenda if you’d like – to do so, click here:

<https://newportbeach.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>